

Junior Nationals
2011 Minutes of the Coaches Meeting
Estevan Comprehensive School
Saturday May 14, 2011

In Attendance (*voting delegate - ON & QC not indicated on sign-in sheet)

*John Baty, British Columbia	Brian Murphy, Manitoba
Ailbish Skinner, British Columbia	Tracy Dalglish, Ontario
*Jon Hoyt-Hallett, Alberta	Hamish Guthrie, Ontario
*Lori Cline Flath, Saskatchewan	Krista Bryndza, Ontario
Melissa Ong, Saskatchewan	Eric Lavergne, Ontario
Lorelie DeRoose, Saskatchewan (Chair/Secretary)	*Andrea Borod, Quebec
Mark Noel, Saskatchewan	<i>Jonathan Bracewell, Quebec</i>
*Linda Martin, Manitoba	*Andrew Aven Gillis, Nova Scotia

1. Call to order

Lorelie DeRoose called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

2. Acceptance of the Minutes

The 2010 Minutes were presented but not voted on.

3. Business from previous minutes

Chris George's proposed schedule for the April 25-30, 2012 (includes travel days) combined Junior and Senior Nationals was distributed. Chris requests that anyone planning on attending contact him to be added to the event contact list.

The delegates looked at the hosting list, but nothing was discussed or changed.

2012 Quebec
2013 BC
2014 Ontario

2015 Manitoba
2016 Nova Scotia
2017 Alberta

4. Constitutional changes

a) Open vs. closed adjudication – Clause 6) m)

The group discussed the benefits and draw backs of closed adjudication. Closed adjudication hampers judges from giving more helpful comments. However, the uncertainly allows for the idea of hope – that they could be winning and keeps the debaters fully engaged during the tournament. A debater who gives up lowers the debate for the rest of the teams they face. Also, teams often face the same judge more than once, which may be an uncomfortable situation if they know a judge gave them a loss. The possibility of having some open and the rest closed was suggested, but the idea of consistency was raised.

John Baty/Jon Hoyt-Hallett moved to replace the word “should” with “shall” in Clause 6) m).
Carried.

b) Styles of debate

Over the past few years, the popularity of certain styles have been declining. The variety of styles were originally included to provide an even playing field for the participants, especially since the provinces use different styles and rules. While many still see the value of Cross-examination style and use it at home, others are phasing it out or do not use it at all. There was a brief discussion about what styles were still in use in each province.

Another issue was that the style used by provincial qualifiers can differ from the styles used at Nationals. Often delegates have to learn a whole new style just before Nationals. The idea of consistency was raised again, and the fact that Junior Nationals has come to pretty much mirror Senior Nationals was acknowledged. Parliamentary style was removed from the Constitution a few years ago, and discussion style has not been selected for a few years.

Linda Martin/John Baty moved to amend Clause 6) d) to read:

“There will be at least one but no more than two prepared resolutions. There may be any number of impromptu resolutions. The competition will be in the Canadian National Debate Style “(although the speaking times may be reduced).” Carried

c) Bracketing

Bracketing has become the norm at Junior Nationals, however, Clause 6) c) does not technically allow for it. The group was pretty much in support of changing the wording to reflect actual practice.

John Baty/Linda Martin moved to amend Clause 6) c) to read:

“The first two rounds of prepared debates shall be random and arranged so that students do not debate against teams from their own province nor against the same team twice and they must debate both sides of the resolution.” Carried.

5. 2011 Nationals issues

There was a request to have the timekeeper announce the time used at the end of each speech, which prompted a discussion of differing provincial conventions on this matter. There was no motion to add this practice to the Constitution.

Delegates felt that issues raised were well addressed. It was suggested that if “important” announcements about decorum, etc. need to be made that an adult do so, rather than youth volunteers.

Coaches were also reminded of the need to set a curfew at the hotel, as there were noise issues the previous night. It was suggested that a rooming list would be useful for chaperones as well.

There was a brief discussion about having the judges and debaters together during the briefing. This would lead to a consistent message, however, new and novice judges may feel uncomfortable asking questions in front of the people they will be judging. Too large a group may also be too distracting. No motion was made.

6. Thank you

On behalf of all the adult and student delegates, Tracy Dalglish thanked Lorelie DeRoose, Megan Moncrief, Lori Cline Flath, Margaret Duncan and Pam Dechief, plus their committee for all their hard work organizing an amazing event, especially under the circumstances of the flood crises.

7. Adjournment

Lori Cline Flath moved to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Carried.